

Conferring Ceremony 9

Faculty of Education and Arts, Faculty of Health, Industry Skills Centre

Graduate Speaker – Lorne Williams, Faculty of Education and Arts

10.30am, Wednesday 10 December, 2014

Chancellor, Vice-Chancellor, distinguished guests, fellow graduates, University staff and guests, on behalf of the graduates receiving their awards today I'd like to say a few words of thanks to you all and offer a little encouragement to those of us going out to face the real world. First of all I'd like to address those behind the scenes without whom we would not be having this conversation. I'm talking about the cooks, the cleaners, the maintenance men, IT techs and administrators who keep this fine institution running every day and who we can't thank enough, it takes a lot to run a university and they do so flawlessly.

Next I have to mention the academic staff, who have done so much for us over these past years; teaching us about the world, preparing us for our future careers and listening to the endless excuses for missed deadlines and botched citations. You truly have the patience of saints, I salute you.

Finally to you, my fellow graduates I have this to say. Look down at the piece of paper in your hands; while frail and fragile those few words and bit of parchment are they represent the culmination of many sleepless nights, toil, stress and hard work over the years. Hold it tight because it is the key to your future, one that we the next generation of academics, teachers, scientists, businessmen and engineers will build using the skills we learned here and the ideals imparted to us by this university. So remember no matter what life holds in store, you will always have that piece of paper and we will always have had this time together at Federation University Australia.

Thank you.